Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Text

SECRET POSS DUPE

PAGE 01 CAIRO 02123 140814Z

41
ACTION NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 EUR-10 AF-04 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 NSC-10 NSCE-00 IO-03 L-02 EB-03 PM-03

H-01 RSR-01 PRS-01 /070 W
---------- 085496
R 140700Z JUL 73
FM USINT CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3415
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

S E C R E T CAIRO 2123

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, EG
SUBJECT: CALL ON MINISTER OF INFORMATION, MOURAD GHALEB

1. ON JULY 12, I PAID A CALL ON MINISTER OF INFORMATION MOURAD GHALEB, THE FORMER EGYPTIAN FOREIGN MINISTER. WE HAD A WIDE-RANGING AND INFORMAL DISCUSSION WHICH LASTED FOR ALMOST ONE AND ONE-HALF HOURS. WE STARTED BY EXCHANGING THE STANDARD POSITIONS OF OUR RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS ON THE NEXT STEPS FOR A SETTLEMENT WITH ISRAEL AND THEN WENT ON TO DISCUSS THE PROSPECTS FOR EGYPTIAN-LIBYA MERGER. WE ALSO DISCUSSED LONGER RANGE TRENDS IN THE MIDDLE EAST AREA. FOLLOWING SIGNIFICANT POINTS EMERGED:

A) QADHAAFI AND SADAT DURING THEIR TALKS ON THE MERGER HAD BEEN UNABLE TO AGREE ON A FOREIGN POLICY FOR THE NEW STATE, INCLUDING SUCH IMPORTANT SUBJECTS AS A

SECRET
SECRET

PAGE 02 CAIRO 02123 140814Z

SETTLEMENT WITH ISRAEL AND ARAB-SOVIET RELATIONS. THEY HAD ALSO DISAGREED ON THE NEED FOR A CULTURAL REVOLUTION

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

IN EGYPT AND ON QADHAAFI'S PHILOSOPHY OF THE THIRD WAY. GHALEB SAW LITTLE PROSPECT THAT EITHER SADAT OR QADHAAFI WOULD BACK DOWN FROM THEIR PRESENT POSITIONS. AT THE SAME TIME, THERE WERE POWERFUL FORCES WORKING IN SUPPORT OF A MERGER, AND GHALEB THOUGHT THAT NEGOTIATIONS WOULD CONTINUE. HE SAID THAT A SERIES OF ALTERNATIVES HAD BEEN PRESENTED TO SADAT BY HIS CABINET, INCLUDING ONE OPTION OF LEAVING RELATIONS AS THEY ARE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES AND GRADUALLY EXPANDING COOPERATION ON AN INSTITUTION TO INSTITUTION BASIS. OTHER OPTIONS INVOLVED HOLDING A PLEBISCITE AND FORMATION OF A FEDERAL PARLIAMENT AND CABINET BY SEPTEMBER 1. GHALEB DID NOT KNOW WHICH OPTION SADAT WOULD SELECT. HE SAID NEGOTIATIONS WOULD PROBABLY BE RESUMED IN AUGUST WHEN SADAT IS SCHEDULED TO VISIT TRIPOLI.

B) ON THE QUESTION OF FUTURE ARAB POLICIES, GHALEB WAS PESSIMISTIC. HE SAID THAT EGYPTIANS AND OTHER ARABS FELT LET DOWN BY BOTH RUSSIA AND THE UNITED STATES AND THAT MOST LIKELY RESULT WOULD BE A DECISION THAT THEY WOULD HAVE TO TAKE MATTERS INTO THEIR OWN HANDS. I REPLIED THAT IF THIS LEADS TO THE CONCLUSION THAT ARABS SHOULD TAKE POSITIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE STEPS TO SEEK A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, I WAS CERTAIN THAT THE USG WOULD BE PLEASED BY THIS DEVELOPMENT. GHALEB REPLIED THAT IN ALL LIKELIHOOD ARABS WOULD FEEL THAT THEY SHOULD NOW TAKE NEGATIVE RATHER THAN POSITIVE STEPS AND THAT US INTERESTS, PARTICULARLY OIL, MIGHT SUFFER EVEN THOUGH ARAB ECONOMIC INTERESTS WOULD ALSO BE HURT. HE SAID IT WAS BECOMING INCREASINGLY APPARENT TO ARAB WORLD THAT USG WAS PURSUING INCOMPATIBLE POLICIES IN SUPPORTING ISRAEL MILITARILY AGAINST THE ARABS AND AT SAME TIME ATTEMPTING TO SECURE FUTURE ENERGY SUPPLIES IN THE ARAB WORLD. ARABS WOULD PROBABLY CONCLUDE THAT USG HAS BEEN UNMOVED BY ARGUMENTS BASED ON JUSTICE AND LOGIC OF ARAB CAUSE, AND THAT ONLY WAY TO AFFECT UNITED STATES ATTITUDES WOULD BE NEGATIVE SANCTIONS AGAINST US ECONOMIC INTERESTS. I POINTED OUT TO GHALEB THAT AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE NOT INSENSITIVE TO CONSIDERATIONS OF JUSTICE AND THAT

ARABS WOULD MAKE MUCH MORE PROGRESS WITHTHE UNITED STATES BY ARGUING THEIR CASE CONSTRUCTIVELY RATHER THAN BY ATTEMPTING TO IMPOSE ECONOMIC SANCTIONS THAT WOULD CREATE BACKLASH AGAINST ARABS IN US PUBLIC OPINION. I ADDED THAT ISRAELIS WOULD BE QUICK TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OPPORTUNITIES PROVIDED BY SUCH ACTIONS AND WOULD POINT TO THEM AS EVIDENCE THAT ARABS ARE DANGEROUS AND UNRELIABLE PEOPLE WHO CANNOT BE TRUSTED TO KEEP THEIR AGREEMENTS. GHALEB AGREED THAT THIS MIGHT BE THE NET RESULT, BUT IN LIGHT OF WHAT HAD HAPPENED, IT WAS

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

MUCH MORE LIKELY THAT ARABS WOULD PURSUE A POLICY OF NEGATIVE SANCTIONS RATHER THAN CONSTRUCTIVE ARGUMENTATION WITH THE UNITED STATES.

2. GHALEB ALSO RAISED QUESTION OF IMPROVED US-EGYPTIAN CONTACTS WHICH HE SAID HAD BEEN DISCUSSED DURING HAFEZ ISMAIL'S TALKS IN WASHINGTON. I REPLIED THAT WE WERE READY TO RESUME DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS (GHALEB DEMURRED ON GROUNDS POLITICAL CLIMATE IS NOT YET RIPE) AND WERE PREPARED TO REVITALIZE THE FULBRIGHT COMMISSION. GHALEN EXPRESSED INTEREST IN THE LATTER AND SAID HE WOULD PURSUE THE SUBJECT WITHIN THE GOE.

3. COMMENT; GHALEB IMPRESSED ME AS A SOPHISTICATED AND EXPERIENCED DIPLOMAT WHO IS BOTH SELF CONFIDENT AND OPEN MINDED. HE OBVIOUSLY ENJOYS FREE WHEELING DISCUSSIONS ON THE GENERAL PROBLEMS OF EGYPT AND THE MIDDLE EAST.
WILEY

SECRET

NNN

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 JUL 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973CAIRO02123
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS WILEY
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730733/aaaaaygb.tel
Line Count: 134
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26-Sep-2001 by martinml>; APPROVED <04-Jan-2002 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CALL ON MINISTER OF INFORMATION, MOURAD GHALEB
TAGS: PFOR, EG
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005